Retro #25: 7 State Titles in Boxing

Boxing fans in Bay St. Louis packed the gyms at St. Stanislaus and Bay High, two schools that dominated this popular interscholastic sport. In 1937, St. Stanislaus won its first state championship at the third annual State Boxing Tournament at Bay High. That year the SSC boxing team, coached by Roger Heitzman, had eight individual state titlists, the largest group ever: Vlado Ivicevich, Joseph Glover, Arthur Fix, Evan Adams, Theo Thomas, V. J. Gianelloni, Hugh Kiefer, and Primo Fayard. These mittmen set a high standard for future teams. The Rock-a-Chaw boxers met the challenge and won six more team championship titles before the state tournaments ended in 1951.

The Sea Coast Echo March 25, 1937

FAMOUS FIVE FIST FIGTHERS FITTINGLY FULFILL.

Five of the eight State champion winners in last week's boxing tournament, from St. Stanislaus College are Elton (Premo) Fayard, Vlado Ivicevich, Vivian J. Gianelloni, Hugh Keifer, Arthur Fix. Coincidental the five are the altar boys for St. Stanislaus Chapel and the Church of Our Lady of the Gulf.

SSC hosted the State Boxing Tournament in its gym in 1938 and 1939. Five SSC student boxers were crowned individual state champs each year. In 1939 the SSC team, coached by Edmund Blaize, won its second team state championship title.

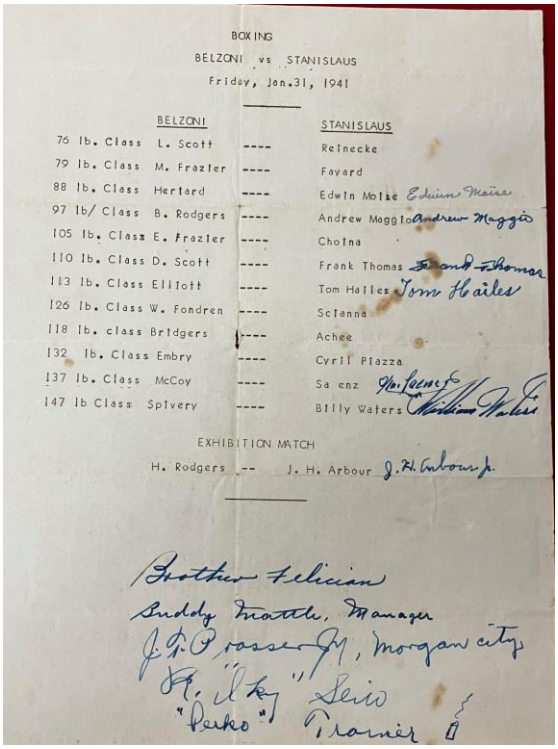
1940 Lettermen

THE ROCK-A-CHAW

SPORTS

BOXING TEAM LETTERMEN

Front row: ~~Roy Dedeaux~~, 105 lb. class; ~~Billy Dutton~~, 118 lb. class; ~~Buddy Fayard~~, 58 lb. class, mascot; Clarence Achee, 98 lb. class; ~~Leroy Choina~~, 90 lb. class. Back row: ~~Jack Landry~~, 125 lb. class; ~~Frank Winn~~, 175 lb. class; ~~John Robichaux~~, senior manager; ~~Joseph Benvenutti~~, 145 lb. class; ~~Philip Seafide~~, 135 lbs.



BOXING

BELZONI vs STANISLAUS

Friday, Jan.31, 1941

	BELZONI		STANISLAUS
76 lb. Class	L. Scott	----	Reinecke
79 lb. Class	M. Frazier	----	Fayard
88 lb. Class	Herlard	----	Edwin Moise Edwin Moise
97 lb/ Class	B. Rodgers	----	Andrew Maggio Andrew Maggio
105 lb. Class	E. Frazier	----	Choina
110 lb. Class	D. Scott	----	Frank Thomas Edward Thomas
113 lb. Class	Elliott	----	Tom Hailes Tom Hailes
126 lb. Class	W. Fondren	----	Sciana
118 lb. class	Bridgers	----	Achee
132 lb. Class	Embry	----	Cyril Piazza
137 lb. Class	McCoy	----	Sa enz
147 lb Class	Spivery	----	Billy Waters

EXHIBITION MATCH

H. Rodgers -- J. H. Arbour J. H. Arbour Jr.

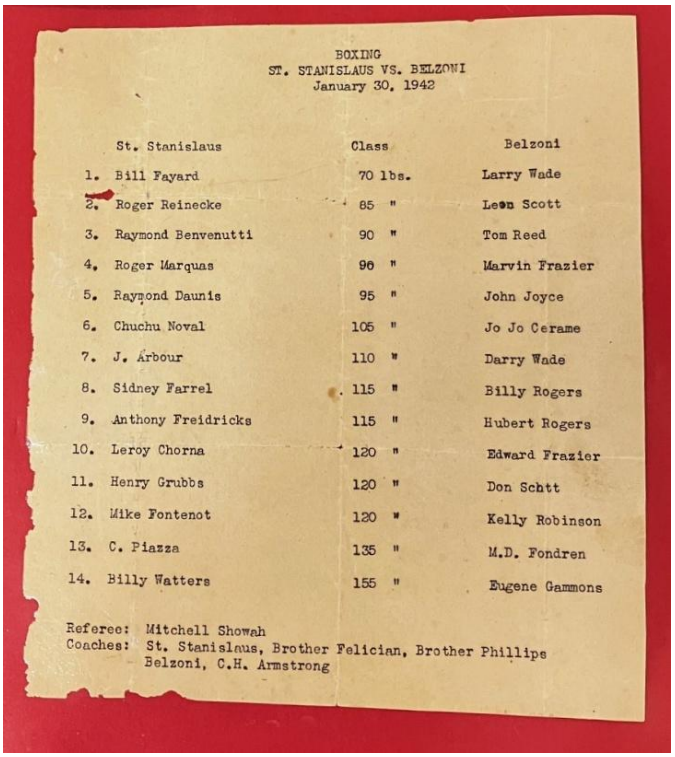
Brother Felician

Buddy Mattle, Manager

J. P. Prosser Jr, Morgan city

R. "Ike" Stein

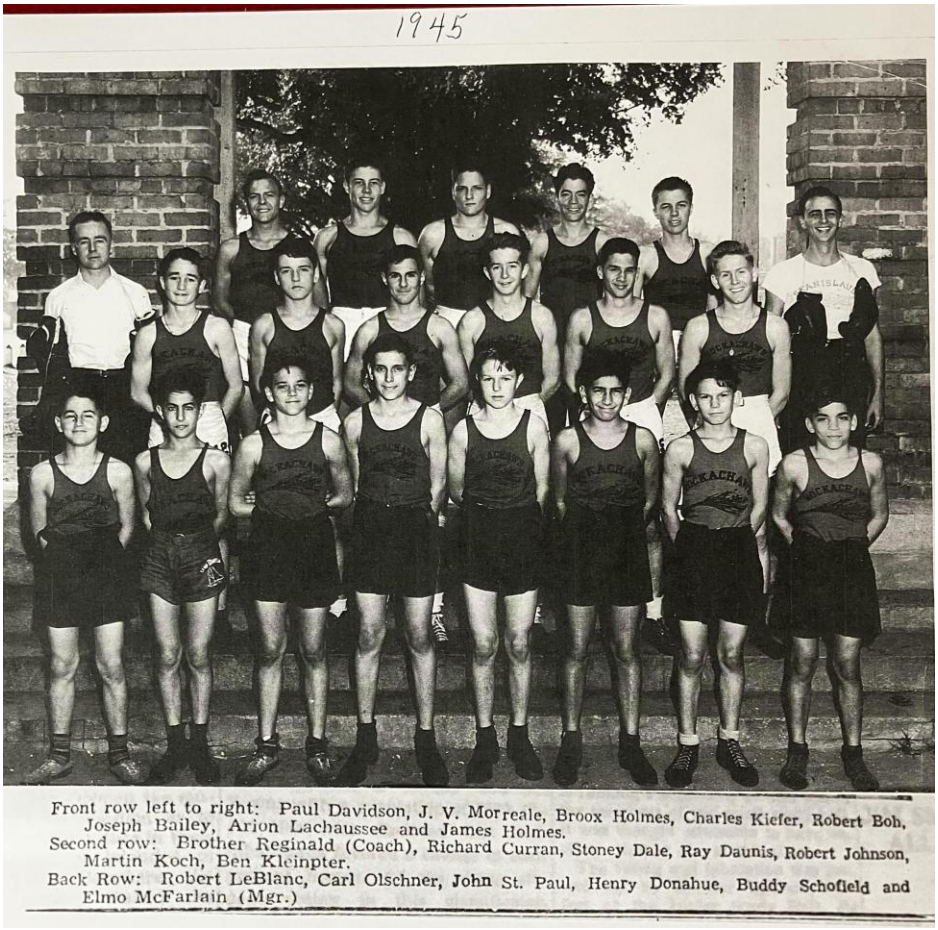
"Perko" Frazier



BOXING
ST. STANISLAUS VS. BELZONI
January 30, 1942

	St. Stanislaus	Class	Belzoni
1.	Bill Fayard	70 lbs.	Larry Wade
2.	Roger Reinecke	85 "	Leon Scott
3.	Raymond Benvenutti	90 "	Tom Reed
4.	Roger Marquas	96 "	Marvin Frazier
5.	Raymond Daunis	95 "	John Joyce
6.	Chuchu Noval	105 "	Jo Jo Cerame
7.	J. Arbour	110 "	Darry Wade
8.	Sidney Farrel	115 "	Billy Rogers
9.	Anthony Freidricks	115 "	Hubert Rogers
10.	Leroy Chorna	120 "	Edward Frazier
11.	Henry Grubbs	120 "	Don Schtt
12.	Mike Fontenot	120 "	Kelly Robinson
13.	C. Piazza	135 "	M.D. Fondren
14.	Billy Watters	155 "	Eugene Gammons

Referee: Mitchell Showah
Coaches: St. Stanislaus, Brother Felician, Brother Phillips
Belzoni, C.H. Armstrong



1945

Front row left to right: Paul Davidson, J. V. Morreale, Broox Holmes, Charles Kiefer, Robert Boh, Joseph Bailey, Arion Lachaussee and James Holmes.
Second row: Brother Reginald (Coach), Richard Curran, Stoney Dale, Ray Daunis, Robert Johnson, Martin Koch, Ben Kleinpter.
Back Row: Robert LeBlanc, Carl Olschner, John St. Paul, Henry Donahue, Buddy Schofield and Elmo McFarlain (Mgr.)

After World War II when state tournaments resumed, boxers at SSC again excelled. In the late forties and early fifties, SSC won the state title five more times in 1946, 1948, 1949, 1950, and 1951. In 1946 Coach John Scafide placed ten boxers in the finals, and five of them won individual state titles. From 1948 through 1951, Coach Richard Thames' teams dominated the state tournaments, being crowned state champs four years in a row.

1948 State Champs

The St. Stanislaus boxing team won the team championship in the State Boxing Tournament held at Bay High Gymnasium recently—Reading from left to right—Back row—Odelle Saucier, Manager, Ray Benvenutti, Roger "Red" Reinike, Joseph David, Charles Daigle, James Egan, Edward Landry, manager. Second row—Brother Regi nald, John LaBruzzo, Van "Beaver" Fayard, Robert Mills, J. V. Morreale, Albert Piazza, Charles Curel, Milton Chavannes, Richard Thames Coach. First row: Henry Capdepon, Leonard Benvenutti, Jerry Kiefer, James Curran, Roy Noto, Russell Simons and Eugene Schwartz. 1948 STATE CHAMPS

1949 State Championship Boxing Team
Coach Richard Thames

Kneeling from left: Jimmy Curran, Eugene Schwartz, Bobby Mills, Paul Palermo, and Toni Stimmel
Standing: Jim Weithmann (assistant coach), John LaBruzzo, Walter Powell, Joe David, Frank Dominique, Don Haas, J. V. Morreale, and Ambrose Chiniche (manager)

At the end of the 1951 season, the Mississippi State Athletic Association dropped boxing as an interscholastic sport. During its brief 13-year existence, SSC won the state boxing title seven times, a record not matched in any other sport.